

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TAGS: MAR, RP, US

SUBJ: MARCOS MAKES FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON BASES

1. SPEAKING AT UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES LAW ALUMNI DINNER JANUARY 7, MARCOS SAID THAT ENTIRE BASES QUESTION IS UNDER REVIEW BY SPECIAL STUDY GROUP AND IN EVENT "THAT OUR BEST INTERESTS, AS WE PERCEIVE THEM, COMPEL US TO ABANDON THESE BASE AGREEMENTS, AND TO SEEK AN END TO AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY," THE GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO NEGOTIATE A "WHOLE NEW STRUCTURE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES BASED ON EQUALITY AND MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS."

2. MARCOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF THE AMERICANS ARE TO STAY ON IN THE BASES, WHETHER "IN THEIR PRESENT OR REDUCED STRENGTH, THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO DO SO FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF A FIXED RENT, RATHER THAN TIEING IT TO AID." HE CALLED THAT A "BIG IF," STATING THAT "I AM ANXIOUS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE FOR OURSELVES WHETHER THESE BASES DO IN FACT PROVIDE US EFFECTIVE PROTECTION, OR WHETHER THEY ONLY INCREASE THE DANGER TO OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE PROVOCATION THAT THE BASES AND ALL THEIR COMPONENTS, INCLUDING THEIR WEAPONRY, REPRESENT." HE SAID THAT "TO THE EXTENT THAT WE ARE PERCEIVED AS A SOURCE OF EXTERNAL THREAT BY OTHER COUNTRIES, TO THAT EXTENT WE MUST CONSIDER THE BASES A RISK."

3. MARCOS CITED THE FACT THAT "THE VERY PRESENCE OF

THE BASES MAKES US SO MUCH LESS THAN THE NATION WE WANT TO BE IN THE EYES OF OUR FRIENDS AMONG THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE THIRD WOULD AND THE NON-ALIGNED. WE HAVE LONG TAUGHT OURSELVES THAT THE PRESENCE OF THESE BASES SERVED OUR INTERESTS." HE ADDED, "WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE, IF AND WHEN OUR STUDIES DEMONSTRATE IT, THAT THEY IMPERIL MORE THAN THEY SERVE OUR INTERESTS." CALLING THIS THE PRICE OF MATURITY, HE SAID: "AT A CERTAIN AGE, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT SANTA CLAUSE HAS A LIMITED EXISTENCE."

4. MARCOS CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT "WE MUST NOT CONSIDER THE PRESENT BASES AGREEMENT, NOR THE OTHER AGREEMENTS WITH IT, NAMELY, THE US-PHILIPPINE MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT AND THE US-PHILIPPINE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACT, AS BEYOND IMPEACHMENT. THEY MAY BE DENOUNCED, THEY MAY BE TERMINATED."

5. MARCOS' COMMENTS PROVIDE INTERESTING BUT NOT ALARMING PUBLIC COUNTERPOINT TO THE HERETOFORE STANDARD GOP LINE THAT NEXT MOVE ON BASE TALKS WILL DEPEND ON EXAMINATION OF SITUATION BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION. IT IS NOW ON THE PUBLIC RECORD THAT GOP IS REVIEWING ITS OPTIONS, TOO. SUCH REMARKS BY MARCOS AT TIME CINCPAC IS IN MANILA, MAY OR MAY NOT BE COINCIDENTAL.
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